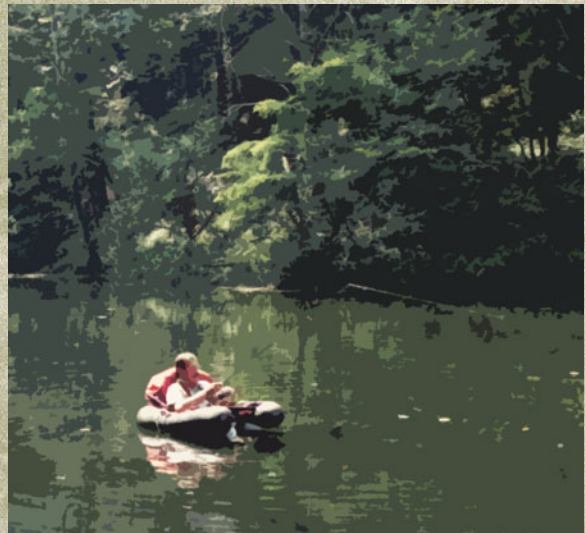


# THE YEAR IN REVIEW



W A Y N E  
NATIONAL FOREST

2003



**Mary Reddan**  
Wayne National Forest  
Forest Supervisor

## FROM THE FOREST SUPERVISOR

2003 witnessed us celebrating two bicentennial milestones: Ohio's statehood and the commemoration of Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery. Reflecting on the changes this land has witnessed over the past 200 years, I've felt encouraged that we're moving in the right direction. I was pleased too that the Wayne National Forest was featured in the backdrop for Ohio's 200th birthday commemorative postage stamp.

The year began with a devastating ice storm in the southern part of the Forest. From two to five inches of ice shattered trees under its weight. Over 100 miles of trails were blocked with

downed trees, and roads were closed for weeks. This natural catastrophe galvanized our employees and though the job is far from complete, we've spent much of the year restoring the area and making it once again safe for visitors.

We ended the year on the Ironton Ranger District with one of our proudest moments as we closed the valve at Vesuvius Lake and saw the lake began to refill.

The Forest Service goal of caring for the land and serving people was put to a test on the Wayne this year, and we once again proved it to be a value to which the Wayne was committed. With our many



partners we stretched every dollar and worked together on a staggering array of projects.

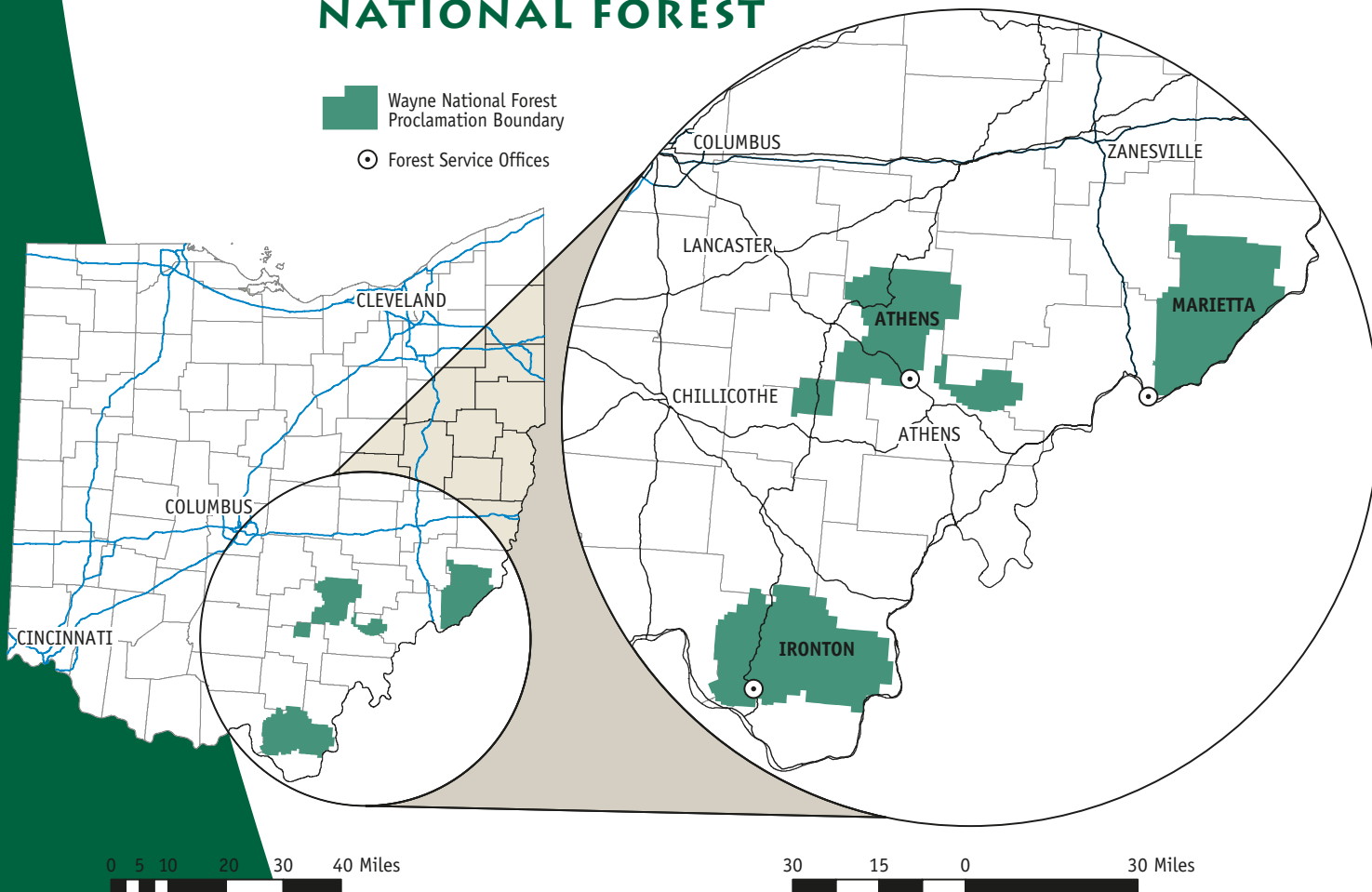
I was also humbled by the outpouring of public interest and dedication in helping us develop alternatives to revise our Forest Plan. Though we are the Wayne's caretakers, you are the owners—and we continue to look forward to hearing from you!

*Mary O. Reddan*

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**Nelsonville, OH 45764**  
**740-753-0101**

## WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST

 Wayne National Forest  
Proclamation Boundary  
 Forest Service Offices



# PROTECT THE NATURAL RESOURCES ENTRUSTED TO US.

## WE ARE COMMITTED

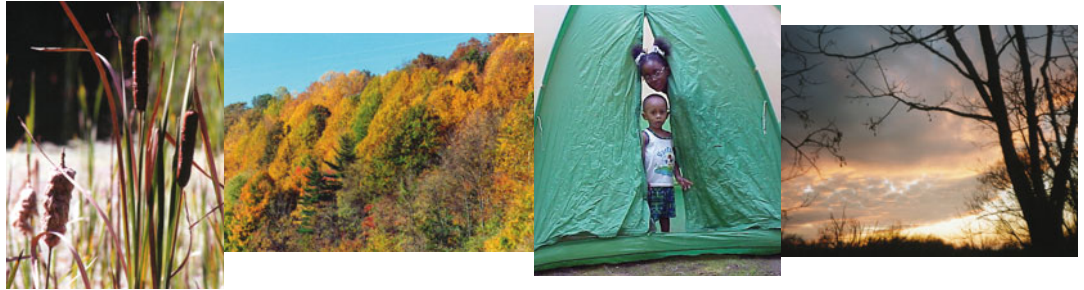
to protecting the Wayne National Forest's 236,000 acres of public land and its many unique resources. We protect resources in a variety of ways, from reducing fuel buildups or prosecuting people caught dumping trash, to building bat gates to protect endangered species.

For every project implemented, several more are in the planning stage. The Forest is continually developing new projects, seeking public opinion, and developing partnerships.

This year saw the Forest move closer to revising the Land and Resource Management Plan, developing alternative ways to bring the document more in line with our vision for the new century.

Since all forest resources are not well served by low intensity management, 2003 saw the harvesting of timber once again used as a tool on the Wayne to increase diversity, stimulate regeneration, and move the area back to a higher percentage of oak.

Protecting your resources is a team effort. Forest visitors who treat the land with respect and leave only footprints help protect our land. The many partners and volunteers who assist in maintaining our trails, cleaning up our dumps and restoring our waterways provide an invaluable service that enables us to better protect our natural resources.



## IMPLEMENTING THE HEALTHY FOREST INITIATIVE ON THE WAYNE

The Healthy Forest Restoration Act was signed in 2003. This legislation was designed primarily to prevent catastrophic fires. While most Americans think only of large western fires, catastrophic wildfires have happened, and can happen in Ohio. In 2001, wildfire burned 865 acres on the Wayne. In 1952, the worse year on record, thousands of acres burned.

On the Wayne National Forest, in the wake of the devastation of the President's Day ice storm in 2003, damage on six counties on the Forest was epic. Approximately 47,000 acres were affected. There were places from the air where the forest resembled a pile of pick-up sticks with trees broken and piled haphazardly, quickly curing into fuels and setting the area up for an explosive fire hazard.

In a two part effort, the Forest worked to reduce the danger of wildfire and restore a healthy forest. First, 100 acres of downed and broken trees along roadsides were treated. Fuels were scattered or removed within 200 feet of six public roads to reduce the fire danger.

Next, 930 acres most heavily impacted will be treated in 2004. The analysis and pre-work was done in 2003 to prepare for this large-scale fuel treatment effort. These areas were inventoried for any threatened, endangered or sensitive species and mitigation measures are in place.



Route 93 through parts of the Wayne National Forest Ironton Ranger District in Lawrence County was closed for over a week due to trees and debris that had fallen across the roadway.

## INCREASED PROTECTION FOR T&E SPECIES

In February 2003, the *Forest Plan* was amended to increase the protection provided to threatened and endangered (T&E) species on the Wayne National Forest. Several additional actions were documented to help conserve these species on national forest system lands. This amendment will be incorporated into the plan revision effort.





## PUBLIC IDEAS HELP MOLD PLAN REVISION EFFORTS

Small groups of citizens in Akron, Brookville, and Athens, Ohio worked intently in small groups to develop concepts for alternative ways to manage the Wayne National Forest. Public participants in the Wayne workshops represented diverse interests and quickly learned first hand the challenges of melding a wide variety of viewpoints into a workable alternative. Each group struggled with conflicting values and priorities but generally were able to reach a compromise and most people were pleased with the effectiveness of the process.



**A workshop participant points out an area of concern to Forest Supervisor Mary Reddan.**

The "themes" they developed for managing the forest will be used as the forest analyzes different alternatives to revise the Wayne's Land and Resource Management Plan. The draft for the revised *Forest Plan* is expected to be complete by autumn 2004.

## MAINTAINING VIABLE POPULATIONS ON THE WAYNE

A viable population is one that has a given number and distribution of reproductive individuals to ensure its continued existence in the planning area. Viability may be at-risk for those species whose populations are in decline, or for those that are rare and rely on special habitat conditions.

Biologists on the Wayne, with the help of a committee of scientists, identified potentially at-risk species within the planning area. They grouped these species by habitat needs and selected focal species from each group. Life history information, population and habitat trends, occurrences and threats, and conservation approaches were compiled for each of these species. As the *Forest Plan* is revised, these conservation approaches will be incorporated as a way to maintain viable plant and animal populations in the planning area.

## ENFORCING LAW & PROTECTING THE FOREST

In addition to the scientists and managers on the Wayne, there are also law enforcement officers. These men and women work closely with Ohio Conservation Officers and County sheriff departments to ensure that laws are enforced and visitors are safe on the Forest.

- In 2003, four major marijuana cultivation cases were successfully prosecuted with more pending.
- Methamphetamine labs in the forest are an ongoing problem with their associated hazards to unsuspecting visitors and the environment.
- Two timber theft cases were investigated and are awaiting prosecution by the US Attorney.
- Three convictions were made involving solid waste dumping as the number of roadside dumps, especially those involving hazardous waste, continue to proliferate in the area.



**This trash dump resulted in convictions for individuals dumping construction materials. The sentence included 60 days jail/suspended plus one year probation, 40 hours community service, cost of cleanup, a \$500 fine, and court costs.**

As a result of these cases and the vigilance of our law enforcement officers and partners in other agencies, the Forest continues to be a place people feel safe bringing their families.

# RESTORE THE LAND TO CONSERVE OUR NATURAL HERITAGE.

## THE WAYNE NATIONAL

Forest exists because of the need for restoration. Historically they were “the lands nobody wanted,” where erosion and unmanaged use prompted Ohio’s governor in 1934 to ask the Forest Service to establish a national forest in southeastern Ohio.

Seventy years later we’re still working toward that goal and restoring the rich biodiversity that is southeastern Ohio’s legacy. The area is rich in minerals and has been mined extensively over the years leaving a legacy of restoration needs. In 2003 several abandoned mines and subsidences were restored and innovative technology is being evaluated with potential to further clean up acid drainage.

After three years of work, Lake Vesuvius is a place anglers, campers and boaters can again enjoy. Having reconstructed the dam to meet current safety requirements and given the boat dock and other areas a facelift, the Wayne’s most popular recreation area will be open for business in the 2004 recreation season.

With the help of partners, a wetland was restored benefiting birds and wildlife, as well as eliminating flooding problems on a county road.

## NEW TECHNOLOGY ON THE WAYNE

A legacy of past mining in southeast Ohio left hundreds of seeps and subsidences draining acid water into our watersheds. Current technology is limited and expensive, however a new system, currently being tested on the Wayne offers great promise at less than 25 percent of the cost.

The system is called pyrolucite bio-remediation technology, and works by running acidic runoff through a lined tank with baffles filled with limestone. The limestone is populated with microbes which colonize limestone and metabolize the iron and manganese in the runoff. A granular ferric-oxide remains that can be flushed from the system and sold commercially.



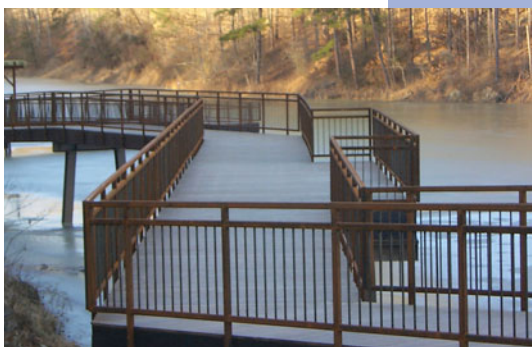
Pyrolucite system removes iron from acidic mine drainage.

Kimble Mine had the highest levels of iron on the Forest. The Wayne put in a small pyrolucite system at this mine in 2003 to evaluate its success. Low costs and excellent results from the project have resulted in plans to install a full-size system at Kimble Mine in 2004.

## THREATENED, ENDANGERED AND SENSITIVE SPECIES: WHAT WE DID TO HELP

FEDERAL SPECIES	WAYNE NF ACTIVITIES
INDIANA BAT	Survey known Indiana bat hibernaculum and mine openings. Construct bat-friendly gates at mine entrances.
BALD EAGLE	Conduct mid-winter surveys annually.
AMERICAN BURYING BEETLE	Completing an environmental analysis for reintroduction.
RUNNING BUFFALO CLOVER & SMALL WHORLED POGONIA	Surveyed over 1,500 acres for plants in 2003 on Ironton district
REGIONAL FORESTER SENSITIVE SPECIES	
BLACK BEAR	Promote awareness through workshops, displays and handouts.
BOBCAT	Conduct scent station surveys.
CERULEAN WARBLER	Conduct territory mapping surveys in the Bluegrass Ridge area and a breeding bird survey across the Forest.
HENSLOW'S SPARROW	Monitor species in reclaimed strip mine areas.
TIMBER RATTLESNAKE	Complete annual surveys in suitable habitats.
OHIO LAMPREY	Preparing a conservation assessment.
GRIZZLED SKIPPER	Monitor quality of its habitat annually.
BLUE SCORPIONWEED	Complete annual monitoring of populations.
BUTTERNUT	Discovered and mapped several populations.
JUNIPER SEDGE	Surveyed new population in May 2002.
YELLOW GENTIAN	Protect existing population on the Athens Unit.

\* Many of these activities could not occur without the help of partnerships or volunteers



**A beautiful new boardwalk around Lake Vesuvius was completed in 2003 to top off the Lake Vesuvius Dam Reconstruction Project.**



## LAKE VESUVIUS—NEW AND IMPROVED AND FILLED WITH WATER

The valve for Lake Vesuvius was closed on December 15, 2003 and the lake began to fill. As of January 28, 2004, the lake had totally refilled and water was coming over the spillway!

The closing of the valve after the lake had been drained for three years was the culmination of an extensive effort to rehabilitate the aging dam at Lake Vesuvius. National dam safety standards were tightened in the 1980's and Lake Vesuvius was no longer in compliance in its ability to retain flood waters. The \$4.1 million dam and spillway renovation project reconstructed the dam to meet the new standards.

While the dam was being renovated, the boat ramp, parking area, and boathouse were also expanded and reconstructed, and the lakebed was mapped. In preparation for the State stocking bluegill, bass, catfish and crappie in spring 2004, volunteers constructed fish habitat structures in the dry lakebed. These structures will provide cover and nesting for fish. As the fish grow, Lake Vesuvius should again provide a world-class fishing experience for anglers in southeast Ohio.

## PARTNERS SAVE BIG BAILEY WETLAND

Big Bailey Wetland has been a landmark in Athens County for 70 years, ever since the mines abandoned a railroad bed that dammed up a four-acre pool. The area soon became a haven for wildlife, including kingfisher, beaver, and wood duck, and featuring a Great Blue Heron rookery at one end.

Over time beaver activity backed up water, threatening the county road. Working together the Wayne and the Athens County Engineers constructed a rock spillway and a water control structure. Athens County provided heavy equipment and operators for the project. The water control structure allows biologists to control the water depth and provide a more stable environment for plant and animal communities.



**A member of the Athens County Engineers mans a backhoe as Wayne National Forest Employees Bob Kerber (left) and Dan Anerino assist at the Big Bailey wetland.**

## THE FOREST THROUGH LEWIS'S EYES

Two hundred years ago Meriwether Lewis and his men launched the Corps of Discovery to explore and document America's resources. In 2003, as reenactors came through and commemorative events were held along the Ohio River, the Wayne was there. If not with educational programming, it was there as a backdrop, with forested landscape restored to the way it may have looked in 1803.

As people came to celebrate this historic event we encouraged them to rediscover the wonders the Wayne has to offer. The rebirth of our eastern National Forests ranks as one of the most remarkable conservation achievements of the century. The forests of the Wayne may today be a place Lewis and his men would have felt at home in.

**Wayne employee, Teena Ligman, teaching school groups at a Bicentennial event in Marietta, Ohio.**

# PROVIDE FOR PEOPLE, NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE.

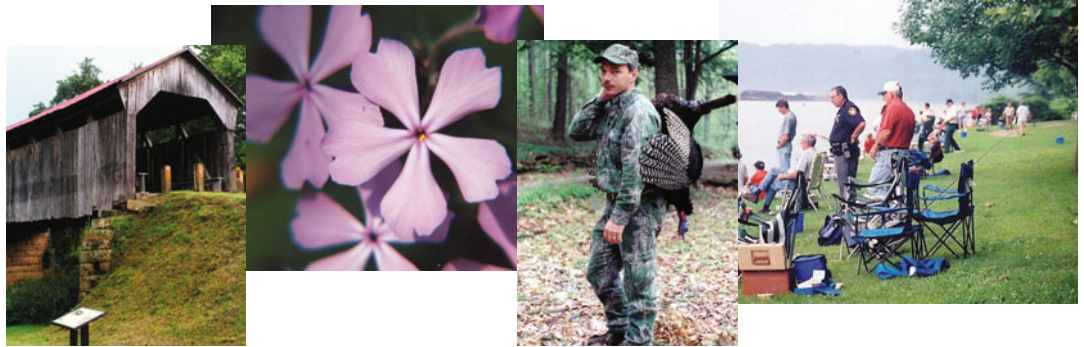
## NATIONAL FORESTS ARE

in the business of making memories. We work hard to provide a safe place for people to come and spend their leisure time. Several sites on the Wayne provide premier recreational experiences. Here, people can enjoy a tranquil day hiking, join a wildflower hike, fish in a secluded lake or bring their children to a fishing derby. Here, people can connect with friends and appreciate America's great outdoors.

Our challenge is to balance impacts of recreation and needs of our neighbors with the capacity of the land. Trail maintenance and construction are on-going. Natural processes and events, such as the ice storm require projects to mitigate a problem while minimizing environmental impacts and keeping people safe while visiting the Forest.

The Wayne National Forest also contributes to the economy of the area. The forest consistently leads the region in the number of special uses granted to private individuals or companies. Oil and gas wells, road and utility access rights-of-way, grazing permits, and even timber sales are a dynamic component of the Forest benefiting many people.

New visitor maps, annual reports, and a dynamic website have provided updated information and opportunities to people in 2003.



**The Wayne acquired Tansky Wetland as part of a land exchange.**

## LAND ACQUISITION

The Wayne grew by one percent in 2003, adding 2,537 acres to the National Forest. An additional 80 acres of mineral rights were also added. The largest tract was a 1,475-acre parcel acquired in Hocking County. This acquisition was welcomed by all-terrain vehicle riders since it allowed the Forest to connect two main trail corridors in the Monday Creek ORV Area.

Another banner achievement in 2003 was a land exchange involving the Wayne National Forest, The Nature Conservancy, the Village of New Straitsville and a private land owner. The exchange allows the Perry County village, tucked in against National Forest land on all sides, to grow while protecting wetland and forest in the Wayne National Forest.

The Forest Service transferred 105 acres of land within the Village of New Straitsville to a local builder in exchange for three parcels of land totaling 95.56 acres—including a 14-acre wetland. Preparations are underway to subdivide the land and prepare the site for constructing some 70 homes.

## INTERPRETING THE AREA'S AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

A grant with the Historic Black Colleges and Universities Program allowed the Wayne to launch an extensive research project on the area's African American heritage. Two known sites on the Forest, Payne's Crossing and Pokepatch, were once inhabited primarily by African American families. Both communities have essentially disappeared leaving only cemeteries behind. However, at one time both were thriving communities active with the Underground Railroad.

The information Wayne researchers uncovered about these historic communities is of interest to so many people that a website was designed for those who have family ties to Payne's Crossing. The website ([www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne/heritage](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne/heritage)) includes census data; land record data, birth, death, and marriage records for the Payne's Crossing area for the years 1820–1870.



**Gravestone in Payne Cemetery of a man who served with the US Colored Troops during the Civil War.**

## PROVIDING FOR FUN SAFELY

**TRAILS** Never has the Forest seen such an all-out effort to maintain trails as what followed the ice storm last winter. The area was closed to visitors for a time while the Forest scrambled to reduce the hazard. Maintenance crews were brought in to clear some trails, contracts let to clear others, and amazingly by April 15th when the trail season opened, the trails were relatively safe.

A series of wet years and increasing use had compounded problems on many trails requiring heavy maintenance to bring the trails back to standard. A record 77.5 miles of motorized trails were reconstructed, with another 158 miles of trail receiving hand maintenance. As a result the trails on the Forest were in significantly better condition at the end of 2003, than they were in 2002.

**BOARDWALK** Lake Vesuvius's new boardwalk is one of the most important visitor initiatives begun in recent years. In the past people bank fishing or walking from the dam along the east side of the lake, had to walk in the road. The narrow road

with blind curves was never intended for pedestrian traffic, so while the lake was drained for work on the dam, the Forest seized an opportunity.

A boardwalk was constructed from the dam to the boat ramp area, safely providing a place for people to walk, fish, and enjoy the lake without interfering with traffic. The boardwalk is an amazing feature, with benches, sheltered kiosks, and fishing piers. It was constructed out of a Brazilian wood called ipe, known for its strength and durability. This investment will provide enjoyment for visitors for many years to come.



**ATV rider on a reconstructed trail in the Wayne National Forest.**



## PARTNERS SHARE STEWARDSHIP

Behind every accomplishment on the Wayne are partners and volunteers who contribute advice, time, labor, or money toward the ultimate success of each venture. In reflecting on each of these proud moments, we are reminded of the many people and agencies who stand with us and continue to provide stewardship of the Wayne National Forest.

**Volunteer members of the Miami Valley Outdoor Club provide trail maintenance assistance to the Forest.**



Credits: Bobcat photo on page 3 and Black bear photo on p. 5, US Fish & Wildlife Service. Big Bailey Wetland photo on p.6, FS Photo by Lynda Andrews.



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